

CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A finger ring bottle opener comprising:

[A] a continuous ring band with a finger passage, a finger passage axis, a band proximal end, a band distal end, a band palm portion, and a band top portion;

a bar integral with the band palm portion, extending from the band distal end generally parallel to the finger passage axis, and having a bottom surface that faces radially outward;

a short shank integral with the band palm portion and extending radially outward from the band palm portion;

a prong integral with a free end of the short shank, extending forward from the short shank, and having a cap skirt bottom engaging surface that is generally parallel to the finger passage axis; and

wherein the bottom surface of the bar is a bottle cap top engagement surface that cooperates with the cap skirt bottom-engaging surface to remove bottle caps.

2. (original) A finger ring bottle opener, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the proximal end is a maximum distance from the distal end on the band top portion and the proximal end is a minimal distance from the distal end on the

band palm portion.

3. (original) A finger ring bottle opener, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the bar includes a bar free end and the bottom surface extends from the free end toward the continuous ring band and radially away from the finger passage axis.

4. (original) A finger ring bottle opener, as set forth in claim 3, wherein the bottom surface of the bar is a cap guide surface that cooperates with the cap skirt bottom-engaging surface to position a bottle cap for removal from a container.

5. (original) A finger ring bottle opener, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the minimum distance between the bottom surface of the bar and the cap skirt bottom engaging surface exceeds a height of a bottle cap that is to be removed.

6. (currently amended) A method of removing a pressed on crown cap from a container comprising:

placing a finger ring bottle opener on a first phalanx of a selected finger with the first phalanx passing through a continuous ring band with a continuous radially facing band inner surface, a finger passage axis and with a bar radially inner surface that is substantially parallel to the finger passage axis and in engagement with the first phalanx;

positioning the finger ring bottle opener on the pressed on

crown cap to be removed, with a ring cap top engaging surface engaging a top surface of the pressed on crown cap, a ring cap skirt bottom engaging surface under a lower edge of a skirt of the pressed on crown cap, and with the finger passage axis substantially parallel to the top surface of the pressed on crown cap;

rotating the first phalanx to urge the ring cap skirt bottom engaging surface of the finger ring bottle opener toward the lower edge of the skirt of the pressed on crown cap; and

applying force to the continuous ring band by the first phalanx and through the ring cap skirt bottom engaging surface, sufficient to force the pressed on crown cap from the container.

7. (new) A finger ring bottle opener comprising:

a continuous ring band with a finger passage, a finger passage axis, a band proximal end, a band distal end, a band palm portion, and a band top portion;

a bar integral with the band palm portion, extending from the band distal end generally parallel to the finger passage axis, and having a bottom surface that faces radially outward;

a short shank integral with the band palm portion and extending radially outward from the band palm portion;

a prong integral with a free end of the short shank, extending forward from the short shank, and having a cap skirt bottom engaging surface

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that is generally parallel to the finger passage axis; and

wherein the bottom surface of the bar is a bottle cap top engagement surface that cooperates with the cap skirt bottom engaging surface to remove bottle caps, and the bottom surface of the bar diverges from the cap skirt bottom engaging surface from the short shank in a direction toward a bar free end.